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(1) Foreign Minister Komura hints at freezing part of Japan's aid to Burma

ASAHI ONLINE NEWS (Full)  
October 3, 2007, 13:15

Responding to the incident of photojournalist Kenji Nagai (50) having been shot to death in Burma (Myanmar), Foreign Minister Komura at noon today commented, "I want to consider whether it would be possible to suspend for a while activities of certain organizations, such as the center for human resource development." He suggested there might be a freeze placed on part of humanitarian assistance provided to Burma, such as, grant aid. Komura was speaking to reporters at the ministry.

Komura continued: "Some insist that all (aid) should be discontinued, but I think it is not good to stop aid that directly benefits the people of Burma, given how difficult it is now for them."

According to the Foreign Ministry, Japan's aid to Burma has been limited since 2003 to humanitarian assistance. Japan's aid for fiscal 2006 was 3 billion yen in the areas of grant aid and technical cooperation. Regarding the construction of a human resource development center and its relevant equipment, about 550 million yen has been planned for that purpose this fiscal year.

(2) DPJ President Ozawa calls for participation in ISAF in Afghanistan

YOMIURI NET (Full)  
12:51, October 3, 2007

The Yomiuri Shimbun learned today that the Democratic Party of  
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Japan's (Minshuto or DPJ) organ paper dated Oct. 5 carries this statement by President Ichiro Ozawa's statement on the Maritime Self-Defense Force's refueling operations in the Indian Ocean: "Since it is authorized by a UN resolution, ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) does not infringe on the Constitution. When we take the reins of government and come into a position to determine foreign and security policies, I would like to see Japan take part in it."

In the statement, Ozawa also took the following view about international contributions regarding the war on terrorism: "(Japan) should take part actively. Actively participating in a UN peacekeeping operation is in line with the philosophy of the Constitution even if it eventually involves the use of force."

ISAF is a multinational force launched based on a December 2001 UN Security Council resolution with the aim of maintaining security in and around Kabul in Afghanistan. Since October 2006, ISAF has been engaged in security operations under the command of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

(3) Concern about decline in civilian control: New refueling legislation would stipulate MSDF operations and produces in simplified manner; Some ruling party members opposing deletion of Diet approval clause

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)  
October 3, 2007

The government and the ruling camp on Oct. 2 agreed on the outline of new legislation to realize the continuation of the Maritime Self-Defense Force's (MSDF) refueling operations in the Indian Ocean. According to that, the new legislation will stipulate MSDF activities and procedures for such in a simplified manner, compared with the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law, which expires on Nov. 1. The aim is to eliminate as many obstacles as possible in pursuing Diet deliberations due to the dominance of the opposition in the Upper House so that a possible vacuum in MSDF operations as a result of failure to secure Diet approval before the law expires can be lessened as much as possible. However, there is concern that minimizing Diet involvement in the matter could give rise to a decline in civilian control.

The new legislation would be extensively different from the existing antiterror law in terms of its limiting MSDF activities to refueling and water-supply operations and omitting a regulation mandating Diet approval.

The current antiterror law categorizes operations which the Self-Defense Force can implement into (1) cooperative assistance, including refueling and water-supply operations; (2) search and rescue operations; (3) rescuing affected people; and (4) other necessary measures. The scopes of specific operations are stipulated in a separate program. Securing ex-post-facto approval from the Diet is mandatory in the event in which operations included in the basic program were implemented.

The new legislation would limit SDF operations to refueling and water-supply operations, but it would stipulate details of operations and areas for such, which were included in the basic program under the antiterror law. The new legislation would also specify that areas of operations are the Indian Ocean including the

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Persian Gulf, in the same way the basic program does under the antiterror law.

If the new legislation incorporates a Diet approval clause, two sessions of Diet deliberations, including deliberations on the legislation itself, would become necessary before it is passed into law. This would be risky if the reality that the opposition camp, which holds a majority in the Upper House and is opposing the continuation of refueling operations, is taken into account. In theory, if detailed activities are incorporated in the legislation, it would be possible to consider that passage of the bill means that Diet approval has been obtained, even if the legislation does not incorporate a Diet approval clause, according to a related cabinet minister.

However, even in the ruling camp there is a deep-seated cautious view toward the idea of eliminating a Diet approval clause, as one junior Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmaker said, "Civilian control must not be neglected."

Arguments on the way civilian control should be are reflected in the assertions made by the LDP and the New Komeito over the duration of operations to be incorporated in the legislation.

The LDP during a meeting of the ruling parties' project team on the 2nd presented a proposal for setting the duration of operations at two years and making it mandatory to submit an annual report to the Diet. Under this proposal, it would be possible for the MSDF to continue operations regardless of the wishes of the Diet.

In contrast, New Komeito Acting Policy Research Council Chairman Natsuo Yamaguchi contended, "If a Diet approval clause is to be removed, the duration of MSDF operations should be set at one year so that the Diet's checking function works." The panel has put off the deadline for reaching a conclusion until Oct. 4. Future talks within the ruling camp and between the ruling and opposition parties will likely focus on the way civilian control should be.

"Refueling operations are not allowed under the Constitution," says DPJ head Ozawa

The government and the ruling parties indicated a plan to present to the opposition parties the outline of new legislation for the continuation of refueling operations next week. In this connection, DPJ President Ichiro Ozawa indicated his stance of opposing the new legislation as well. He noted, "Refueling operations are not basically allowed under the Constitution. There can be no room for talks on that principle."

The outline limits the activities of MSDF troops to refueling and water-supply operations. Regarding this limit, Ozawa pointed out, "Whether it is oil or water, MSDF operations should not be approved without limit constitutionally, since their aim is to assist military actions by US forces."

(4) The current state of war on terror in Afghanistan and Japan: Two military operations coexist (part 1)

ASAHI (Page 3) (Full)  
October 2, 2007

Six years have passed since the United States and its allies

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launched strikes on Afghanistan following the terrorist attacks on American soil in September 2001. The US and European nations are still engaged in the war on terror in Afghanistan and the neighboring area. Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) has continued a refueling mission in the Indian Ocean as logistic support for the war on terror, even though the allegations are emerging that the fuel provided by the MSDF might have been diverted for the Iraq war. This mission, however, is sure to be interrupted because the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law, the legal basis for the mission, is to expire on Nov. 1. Prior to the start of a full debate on the issue in the current extraordinary session of the Diet, the Asahi Shimbun reports on the still unstable situation in the country and its nearby areas.

Difficulties in distinguishing between two operations going on in Persian Gulf

Masato Tainaka, Cairo

The US forces-led war on terror targeting Afghanistan, the base for the international terrorist network Al Qaeda, is called Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). This operation consists of subordinate operations: mop-up operations against Al Qaeda and against the antigovernment Taliban insurgents and maritime interdiction operations (MIO).

In 2001, the Japanese government enacted the Antiterrorism Special Measures Law to support the maritime interdiction operations in the logistical area and decided to deploy MSDF supply ships to the Indian Ocean for refueling of the warships of America and other countries. As of the end of this August, MSDF ships had provided refueling services 777 times (totaling 484,000 kiloliters) to foreign warships, of which US vessels were serviced 350 times.

Japan's refueling operations have been called "a free gas station on the sea." But countries participating in the Coalition of the Willing appreciate Japan's services. In fact, a high-level British Navy officer noted, "The efficiency of our operations has improved 20 PERCENT or more because our vessels don't have to make port calls for refueling."

Reportedly, the maritime interdiction operations have successfully spotted suspicious ships and prevented terrorist groups from entering areas near Afghanistan, and they also have prevented movements of weapons and narcotics into or out of the country. According to Japan's Defense Ministry, the MSDF in 2004 made over 11,000 inspections of suspicious vessels and made about 41,000 wireless inquiries. The number, however, dropped to 9,000 inquiries in 2006. The Japanese government highlighted the achievements, saying, "The number of suspicious boats has definitely dropped," but links between suspicious boats and terrorist groups have yet to be clarified.

Meanwhile, when it comes to the maritime operations, those for the "war on terror" in Afghanistan and those for the Iraq war have both existed since the start of the Iraq war in the spring of 2003.

According to the US Navy, the Coalition of the Willing has been engaged in operations in three sea areas: the combined task force (CTF) 150, a sea area located outside the Persian Gulf; the CTF 152, a sea area in the southern part of the Persian Gulf; and the CTF 158, a sea area in the northern part of the Persian Gulf. The MSDF

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has provided fuel other countries' ships only in the CTF 150, which is closest to Afghanistan. The MSDF has insisted that it will never refuel vessels that are not subject to the antiterrorism law and take part in any operations for the Iraq war.

In 2003, however, the USS Kitty Hawk, which was supposed to take part in the war on terror, and accompanying ships received refueling service from the MSDF and afterwards headed for the Persian Gulf and joined the Iraq war. This event later led to the allegations that fuel provided by the MSDF might have been diverted for the Iraq war. Then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda denied the allegations. But late last month, the Japanese Ministry of Defense (MOD) corrected the amount of fuel provided by the MSDF at the time from the 200,000 gallons (760 kiloliters) to 800,000 gallons (3,030 kiloliters). The government has said it will again ask the US about this matter.

A lawmaker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) with connections to the defense industry made this comment: "It's no wonder that because the US forces have participated in both the Iraq war and the war on terror, the purviews of their task forces might have been overlapped at least in early days after the US launched an attack against Iraq."

In the Persian Gulf, operations for the war on terror and those for the Iraq war are both going on. It is very difficult to distinguish between the two. At present the USS Enterprise and its fleet have been engaged in both the war on terror and the Iraq war in CTF 152. In CTF 158, a multinational force led by the US military is training the Iraqi Forces' soldiers while guarding against suspicious vessels around the oil platforms located in Iraq's territorial waters.

Afghanistan: Cleanup operations against Taliban turning into morass

Manabu Kitagawa, Islamabad, Yoshiki Kishi, Brussels

A big explosion occurred suddenly on the morning of Sept. 29 at a bus stop in Afghanistan's Kabul, which was crowded with commuters. A bus carrying Defense Ministry officials was hit by suicide bombing, which killed 31 people. The antigovernment force Taliban admitted it was the source of the suicide bombing.

December will mark the sixth anniversary after the collapse of the former Taliban government, which gave shelter to Osama bin Laden, leader of the international terrorist network Al Qaeda. The war on terror has continued, but the threat of terrorism has been growing even more.

According to a report by the United Nations, there were 103 suicide-bombing incidents as of the end of August. This year's number is likely to be the worst year of 2006 with 123 incidents.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) led by 37 countries, most NATO member nations, have deployed some 41,000 troops in Afghanistan. Aside from them, 8,000 troops composed mainly of US soldiers have been engaged in the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), searching for bin Laden.

At one point, some LDP lawmakers looked for ways to let the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) participate in ISAF, as DPJ President Ozawa declared that "If our party holds the reins of government, we would positively let the SDF take part in something like the ISAF."

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But a senior Foreign Ministry official noted, "Ground operations are incomparably dangerous unlike maritime operations. Some lives would be surely lost." In fact, the ISAF and the OEF have suffered an increased number of casualties. According to Reuters, the toll of victims for a period from 2001 through the end of this September reached 7,000.

Because the Constitution bans the use of force abroad, the Japanese government intends to avoid providing assistance on the ground as ever.

The currently unstable situation in Afghanistan is attributable to the fact that the Taliban is regaining its power. The Taliban is widening its support by inviting jobless young people to join the group. Because the multinational force's operations against terrorists have frequently involved civilian casualties, people have tended to side with the Taliban.

(5) Editorial: On new anti-terror legislation, information disclosure indispensable

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 5) (Full)  
October 3, 2007/10/03

The government adopted an outline for a bill yesterday to extend the Maritime Self-Defense Force's (MSDF) refueling mission in the Indian Ocean. Antagonism between the ruling and opposition blocs on the controversial new legislation will inevitably heat up in the current Diet session. Both camps must take to heart the importance of thorough disclosure of information.

The government swiftly moved on the day after Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda delivered a policy speech. Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba and other relevant cabinet ministers finalized an outline for the new legislation. They will shortly present the outline to the opposition camp and submit a bill to the Diet in mid-October.

The MSDF has supplied fuel and water to naval ships of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Pakistan engaged in operations to prevent terrorists from transiting the Indian Ocean. The Antiterrorism Special Measures Law endorses the MSDF mission, but the law is due to expire Nov. 1. The government reiterates that continuing the mission is Japan's responsibility and serves Japan's national interest.

But the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), the main opposition party, has been dead set against extending the Antiterrorism Law. Now that the opposition bloc has control in the House of Councillors, it will be difficult to extend the law. Under such a situation, the government decided to draw up a new bill.

The outline restricts MSDF activities to supplying fuel. A clause in the Antiterrorism Law that requires Diet approval for the MSDF activities is not included in the outline, reflecting the view that the enactment of the bill is tantamount to Diet approval. To enact the antiterror bill, obtaining approval at both houses is necessary. Some observers speculate that the government removed the clause in anticipation of the bill being rejected in the Upper House.

It might be reasonable for the opposition camp to complain that civilian control has not been properly functioning. On this point,

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more discussion must be conducted.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1776, which expresses appreciation for the MSDF refueling operation, is included in a clause on purposes of the outline. The Japanese government worked on the UN to adopt the resolution, out of consideration to the DPJ, which stresses the need for the UN seal of approval. But the DPJ says the resolution is insufficient. There seems to be no way for talks to be realized between the ruling and opposition parties.

The government should not try to hastily enact a new law under the cause of an international pledge.

What activities is the SDF carrying out in the Indian Ocean? How effectively has the operation worked in the fight against terrorism? There are so many things we do not know. The government's duty is to give detailed explanations on these questions.

The government remains unable to deny the allegation that fuel provided by the MSDF to US warships was diverted for use in the Iraq war. It is Prime Minister Fukuda who denied the allegation as then chief cabinet secretary. This problem must not be left untouched.

Defense Minister Ishiba said he would disclose information in a

positive manner. We expect he will put his words into action. The prime minister stressed in his policy speech the importance of taking public views into consideration. Information disclosure is likely to be a critical test to that end.

(6) Interview with Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba: Pins hopes on start of debate on creation of permanent legislation

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)  
October 3, 2007

Interviewer: Nakae Ueno

-- How do you seek the major opposition Democratic Party of Japan's (DPJ) understanding about a new bill on antiterrorism measures in order to continue the Maritime Self-Defense Force's (MSDF) refueling mission in the Indian Ocean?

"Upon examining what has made (the DPJ) opposed to the continuation of the mission, for instance, 'violation of the Constitution' or 'availability of other measures,' I would like to ask that party to sit down at the negotiating table and obtain its understanding about the need for Japan to do something for the sake of its national interests and international peace."

-- The refueling mission is certain to be suspended. What effect will it have?

"The shorter the interruption the better it would be. I hope that a new bill will be passed into law soon after the current antiterrorism law expires on Nov. 1 and that the mission will be resumed."

-- What do you think about appealing to DPJ President Ichiro Ozawa to respond to talks with the ruling parties?

"President Ichiro Ozawa was designated as prime minister in the Upper House. In this sense, Mr. Ozawa bears a large responsibility."

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I am sure he will respond to Prime Minister (Yasuo Fukuda)'s call for talks. In terms of the current political situation and the current international environment surrounding Japan, I think it is most desirable that the two leaders will discuss a basic direction about most appropriate activities for Japan to take.

-- What do you think about submitting a bill to establish permanent legislation to the ordinary session of the Diet if a new bill is rejected in the Upper House?

"So far I have felt that something is wrong about creating a special measures law as the need arises. We must consider three elements in this regard: on what occasion such a law should be created; whether Japan will be able to assume an appropriate role in international cooperation; and whether civilian control will be secured. Many in the opposition parties are also stressing the need for creating a general law (permanent legislation). I hope the ruling and opposition parties will share the perception that a general law should be established, putting an end to creating a special measures law as the need arises."

-- When it comes to the US force realignment, will Okinawa's Nago City, which has called for modifying the central government's plan for the relocation of the US Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station, be qualified to receive subsidies from the central government?

"The most important thing is to see how much the residents understand about the US force realignment. Putting myself in the shoes of Okinawans, who have housed military facilities and whose land was requisitioned by force, I will make efforts to obtain their understanding about the realignment plan. There is no change in the central government's stance that the current plan is the best and no change will be added to it unless rational reasons are shown. I want to have an opportunity to visit Okinawa and organize my thoughts about the situation."

(7) Many restraints put on deterrent action in Japan

SANKEI (Page 1 & 2) (Slightly abridged)  
September 29, 2007

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) solicited views from companies in the defense industry in the summer of two years ago about equipment that should be newly introduced. One company employee said in a hearing: "We want to develop a torpedo that can be used in shallow seas, such as the East China Sea." In response, the ministry official in charge angrily said: "Do you see rising China as a threat?" The employee replied: "Isn't it necessary to build a breakwater to provide against an emergency?" As a result, the government decided to start research and development to that end starting next fiscal year. The company employee grumbled that he was surprised that a person who is not interested in national defense is responsible for improving national defense capabilities.

There seems to be no mood of tension in the nation, but there was a case in which Japan, as a result of taking deterrent action, prevented an intrusion by foreign aircraft into its air territory. On Oct. 7, 1996, activists from Taiwan and Hong Kong intruded by fishing boats into waters around the Senkaku Islands (called the Diaoyutai Islands) - territory that is an inherent part of Japan - and four of the intruders put up the Chinese and Taiwanese flags on one of the islands. Earlier, an activist from Hong Kong had died in

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a drowning accident off the islands. Upset by this incident, former Taiwanese Air Force officers prepared a scheme to land two helicopters on the islands.

As soon as they learned of this plot, Air Self-Defense Force's (ASDF) Southwestern Composite Air Division Commander Mamoru Sato in Naha decided to take alert action to prevent the planned intrusion.

So that F4 Phantom jet fighters can patrol airspace over the Senkaku Islands and the nearby waters on a 24-hour basis, it is indispensable to mobilize E2C airborne early warning aircraft. Five E2C planes urgently took to the air from Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture. On Oct. 19, 29 F4 and E2C fighters took off.

Sato also anticipated a possible airspace intrusion by China. He believed firmly that the Chinese Air Force would spot the E2C fighters in the stack 6,000 meters above. It was a good opportunity for Japan to demonstrate its iron-tight air defense.

The alert lasted for 10 days. In reaction, the Taiwanese Executive Yuan released a statement banning helicopters from flying over the Senkaku Islands. But Sato responded to the order in a cool-headed manner, because he was not sure if Japan would be able to cope with the situation properly once a foreign country's helicopter plane intruded into its airspace. The Air Defense Command, a higher body of the air division, issued these instructions: "Don't use any weapons;" and "Don't get overly close to intruding aircraft."

When a foreign aircraft intrudes into another country's airspace, that nation must take necessary steps to enable fighters that scramble to force the intruding aircraft to make a landing or to leave the territory. Depending on circumstances, it might be necessary to fire tracer bullets or obstruct the flight course of the plane. If fighters are not allowed to take such steps, they will be unable to perform their mission. A human toll might be taken.

An officer of the Air Defense Command explained that its instruction was in accordance with the Prime Minister Office's intention. Then Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had drawn fierce protests from China for his visit to Yasukuni Shrine in July.

After all, Sato agreed with the ASDF chief of staff to carry out the alert action without making a fuss and took the steps as stipulated in regulations. But he keenly felt how difficult it was to take proper action to prevent infringement of sovereignty.

Now retired, Sato still stresses the importance of having a deterrent capability. "Unless Japan makes a resolute response, it



may result in an increasing number of illegal intrusions," he said.

Japan's helplessness detected

In part because North Korea was aware that Japan's deterrent capability was not properly functioning, Japanese nationals were abducted by its agents.

According to the book titled, "Secret teachings of Kim Il Sung" (published in 2004), which correspondent Ruriko Kubota assigned to the Sankei Shimbun Seoul Branch Office edited based on her interview with a senior North Korean agent, Kim Il Sung had instructed agents to carry out operations taking advantage of Japan's weakness, saying: "Japan is a prime fishing ground that enables us to expand

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our indirect maneuvering" (in talks with agents toward the South in 1983).

Kim Il Sung made the following remarks in an executive meeting in 1969:

"Japan is an interesting country. Japan cannot wield its power toward North Korea because it controlled and plundered our country as its colony for 36 years.

"Japan has no legal or systemic measures to restrict espionage or anti-government activities. Even if we carry out such activities and the activities are discovered, only light punishment will be imposed under the Alien Registration Law or the Immigration Control Law.

"If necessary, we may have to kidnap Japanese nationals."

As pointed out by Kim that Japan "cannot wield its power," Japan has no provision to allow the Self-Defense Force (SDF) to take measures to stop incursions. In other countries, it is common for the legitimate armed forces to take forcible measures to deal with illegal acts by a foreign military force.

In the case of airspace intrusions alone, the SDF is allowed to take necessary measures under Article 84 of the Self-Defense Force Law. But on the use of weapons, Japan has yet to set definite standards. That is because Japan has applied the principle of allowing a counterattack in proportion to the scale of an attack from an enemy. Pilots are allowed to use weapons only in the case of emergency evacuation or legitimate self-defense. Troops on the frontline are allowed to take action for the first time only after being attacked.

Aware of an overly heavy burden from such regulations, SDF troops are eager to establish a powerful system to prevent enemies from taking advantage of their weakness.

Junior lawmakers from various political parties created a group at the end of 2001 to establish a security system suited for the new century. The group, headed by Keizo Takemi, called for reviewing the current awkward national defense system. Since then, the group has reiterated the need to quickly reconstruct the exclusively defense-oriented system and reconsider the current security legislation.

In the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), its members Goshi Hosono and Akihisa Nagashima worked out a report calling on the government to authorize the minor use of the self-defense right, including the defense of missions, and to change the government's interpretation of the Constitution to conform the international standard on the use of armed force." The project team on territory and sea interests approved the report in December 2004.

Although the proposal was approved, the government has yet to make an effective legal system to protect its territorial waters and airspace.

(8) Growing calls for extending current Diet session

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Slightly abridged)

October 3, 2007

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With the government outlined new legislation enabling the Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) to continue its refueling mission in the Indian Ocean, views calling for an extension of the current Diet session, which runs until Nov. 10, have become stronger. The reason is that the government expects that it would be difficult to enact the legislation during the ongoing extraordinary session, since the opposition camp controls the House of Councillors. As the Diet will have to deal with both -- an annual tax code revision and budget compilation for fiscal 2008 -- some coalition members are cautious about extending the session. Therefore, coordination could stall

The most likely scenario is that the current session will be extended for about one month until mid-December. The scenario is that if the government submits the legislation to the Lower House in mid-October when the budget committees in both Diet houses end deliberations, the measure would clear the Lower House early November and it would be sent to the Upper House. If that is the case, the ruling bloc will be able to readopt the legislation with more than two-thirds of the Lower House members.

In case the term of the session expires while deliberations are discontinuing at the Upper House, chances are that the new legislation will be scrapped. Therefore, some in the ruling coalition assert that the Lower House should decide to carry the legislation over to the next regular session for deliberations again.

The second scenario is that the session should be extended up to next January, using a safeguard. In a meeting yesterday of senior party officials, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Upper House Caucus Chairman Hidehisa Otsuji said: "Since the session will be extended, it should be extensively extended so that the opposition will be able to see our seriousness for passing the legislation."

If the Upper House does not take a vote on a bill within 60 days after the Lower House sent it to it, the Lower House can consider that the bill was voted down. If the session is extended substantially, the Lower House will be able to take a vote again on the legislation even if deliberations at the Upper House are dragged on.

However, LDP Secretary General Bunmei Ibuki sought to constrain the view calling for a lengthy extension of the Diet session, saying yesterday in a liaison conference of the government and ruling coalition: "The government's top priority is to continue antiterrorism operations. Since improving people's lives is also important, compilation of the budget should not be delayed."

A senior New Komeito leader asserted that the ruling coalition should be cautious about taking a vote twice in the Lower House. Some in the LDP think that if they cannot have discussions with the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), the current session should be closed as scheduled and the bill should be discussed in the next session. This is the third scenario.

The root cause of the necessary for an extension of the extra session is that the Diet stalled for about three weeks due to the LDP presidential election. Therefore, there is a view in the LDP that the session should be extended at least three weeks.

DONOVAN